

## MEMORANDUM

To: Vermont Children's Performance Indicator Project Advisory Group

From: John Pandiani  
Brad James

Date: June 26, 1997

Re: Expenditures for Total Education and Special Education Per Capita

Attached is the second in a series of reports on access to children's mental health services in Vermont. This report shows total general and special education expenditures for the state and its ten community mental health service areas. The data are also presented as per capita expenditures for children and adolescent populations of the state and service areas.

Overall, total education expenditures in Vermont amounted to \$691 million for the 1995-1996 school year. Special education expenditures for the same year were \$86.5 million for the reporting towns. The total revenues to community mental health Children's Services Programs was \$25 million as reported last week.

We look forward to your comments on the quality of the data, the appropriateness of the analysis, and the effectiveness of the data presentation as well as your interpretation of the results.

## **Access to Mental Health Services General and Special Education Expenditures Per Capita**

**QUESTION:** Does the amount of money expended for pre-school and kindergarten through 12th grade education vary substantially among Vermont's ten community mental health service areas? (This question is related to MHSIP Report Card Access Indicator #5.)

**DATA:** Information on educational expenditures was obtained from the *1997 Vermont School Reports*, published on the Internet by the Vermont Department of Education and the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont (<http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt>). General and special education expenditures for Local Education Authorities (school districts) were summed for each of the ten community service areas.

Total expenditures for both general education and special education were obtained. Total general education expenditures include:

- direct instruction;
- pupil, instructional staff, and central support services;
- general and school administration;
- plant operation and maintenance;
- student transportation;
- food services and other enterprise operations;
- capital construction, land, and structure costs;
- instructional and other equipment;
- community services and adult education;
- interest and principal payments on long term debt; and
- tuition and fees to state government or independent and out-of-state schools.

Total general education expenditures include special education costs but do not include tuition and fees to other districts.

Special education expenditures include all costs eligible for special education formula reimbursement (state and local funds) and include a town's share of costs for any union schools and supervisory union of which it is a member. These expenditures include costs for Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and any eligible pre-school costs. These costs exclude those special education costs for State placed students which are reimbursed from the State Wards Appropriation. (The above definitions are excerpted from the *1997 Vermont School Reports Financial Expenditures: Indicator Definitions*.)

The number of children and adolescents (less than twenty-two years of age) in each of Vermont's ten service areas was obtained from population estimates published by the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Rural Studies.

**ANALYSIS:** Total general and special education expenditures and expenditures per capita are reported for the state as a whole and for each community mental health service

area. Expenditures per capita were derived by dividing educational expenditures for all schools in each service area by the number of children and adolescents residing in each area.

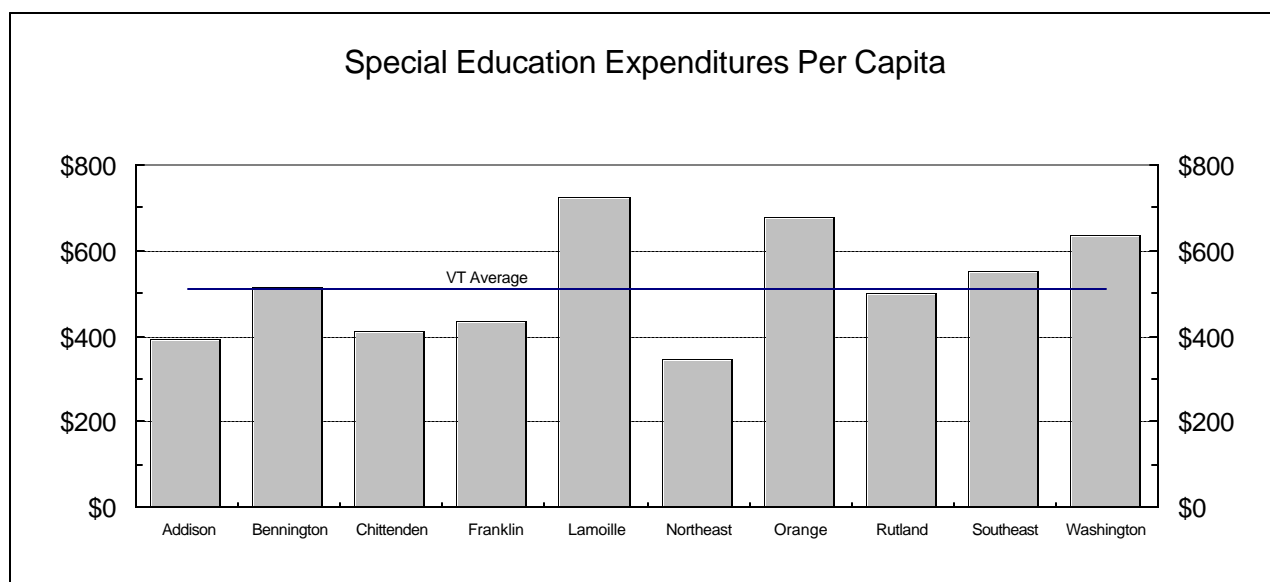
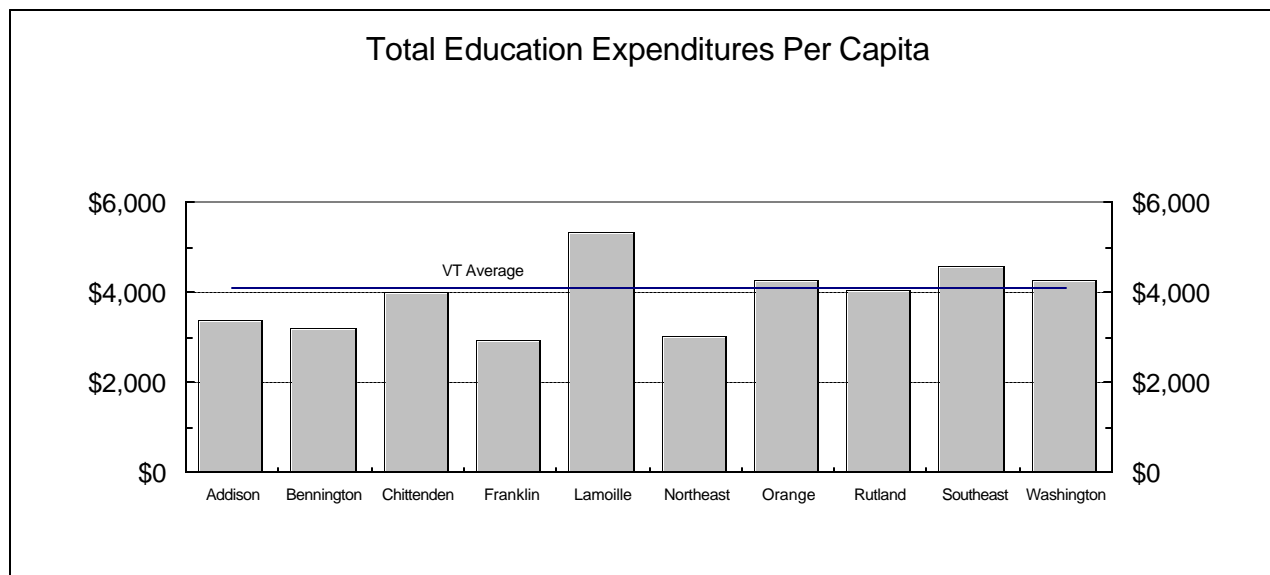
**RESULTS:** Total per capita expenditures for education exhibited a wide range. The Lamoille service area had the largest expenditure per capita for general education (\$5,342) while the Franklin service area had the lowest (\$2,912). Five of the service areas (Chittenden, Orange, Rutland, Southeast, and Washington) had per capita expenditures near the state average (\$4,073).

Per capita expenditures for special education also had a wide range, with the Lamoille service area having the largest per capita expenditure (\$724) followed by the Orange and Washington service areas (\$678 and \$636, respectively). The Northeast service area had the lowest expenditures per capita (\$346). Three service areas (Bennington, Rutland, and Southeast) had per capita expenditures near the state average (\$510).

**NEXT QUESTIONS:** How do these education expenditure levels compare to those in other states? Have expenditure levels (both total and per capita) changed over time? Is this variation related to regional economic differences?

Do these data correlate with the data presented in the previous report? Do these educational expenditures include some of the community mental health revenues from last week? Do regions with high education expenditures also have high revenues for Children's Services Programs?

## Per Capita Education Expenditures for Community Mental Health Service Areas in Vermont - 1995-96 School Year



Region/Provider	Children's Population	Special Education Expenditures		Education Expenditures	
		Total	Per Capita	Total	Per Capita
Addison - CSAC	11,078	\$4,361,423	\$394	\$37,563,467	\$3,391
Bennington - UCS	10,734	\$5,519,943	\$514	\$34,527,777	\$3,217
Chittenden - HCHS	43,730	\$17,931,897	\$410	\$175,142,539	\$4,005
Franklin - FGI	16,016	\$6,942,840	\$433	\$46,642,283	\$2,912
Lamoille - LCMHS	6,588	\$4,766,880	\$724	\$35,194,267	\$5,342
Northeast - NEK	18,906	\$6,536,547	\$346	\$57,297,979	\$3,031
Orange - CMC	8,598	\$5,830,095	\$678	\$36,830,057	\$4,284
Rutland - RACS	17,877	\$8,957,871	\$501	\$72,158,917	\$4,036
Southeast - HCRSSV	27,572	\$15,198,325	\$551	\$125,758,968	\$4,561
Washington - WCMHS	16,429	\$10,444,355	\$636	\$70,050,169	\$4,264
<b>Vermont</b>	<b>169,701</b>	<b>\$86,490,176</b>	<b>\$510</b>	<b>\$691,166,423</b>	<b>\$4,073</b>

Expenditure figures were obtained from the 1997 Vermont School Reports database (<http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt>) and reflect data for the 1995-96 school year. Population figures are projections for 1995 based on the latest estimates published by the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont. 'Children's Population' includes people less than 22 years of age.